

B2

a DNA segment encoding a secretory peptide and a ligand-binding receptor polypeptide, said polypeptide comprising a sequence of amino acids selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) residues 141 to 337 of SEQ ID NO:2; and
- (b) allelic variants of (a); and
- [(c) sequences that are at least 80% identical to (a) or (b); and]

a transcription terminator.

Sull C8 B3 B6

21. (amended) An expression vector comprising the following operably linked elements:

(a) a transcription promoter;

(b) a DNA segment encoding a secretory peptide and a chimeric polypeptide, wherein said chimeric polypeptide consists essentially of a first portion and a second portion joined by a peptide bond, wherein said first portion [consisting essentially of] is a ligand binding domain of a receptor polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) a receptor polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:2; and
- (ii) allelic variants of SEQ ID NO:2[; and]
- (iii) receptor polypeptides that are at least 80% identical to (i) or (ii)],

and wherein said second portion [consisting essentially of] is an affinity tag; and

(c) a transcription terminator.

Sull C8 B4

26. (amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising a segment selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) residues 141 to 337 of SEQ ID NO:2; and
- (b) allelic variants of (a)[; and]
- (c) sequences that are at least 80% identical to (a) or (b)],